



MAR 22 2000

February 16, 2000

National Marine Fisheries Service
c/o Bonneville Power Administration-PL
707 W. Main Street, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Sir:

I am adamantly opposed to the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams. I believe the social and economic impact of removing these dams far exceeds the benefits that would be gained. I find it hard to comprehend that this is the only probable solution. It appears to me that these dams play an important role in our state and nation's economy for the following reasons:

1. They generate low cost-efficient power
2. The barging system alleviates additional highway construction and/or congestion within our currently overcrowded state highway systems
3. The dams bring agricultural diversity through irrigation to these areas and an economic boost to Eastern Washington and parts of Oregon and Idaho
4. The dams act as a deterrent to flooding

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view points.

Sincerely,

Walter H. Smith,
Active Construction, Inc.

WS/cb

pc: AWB
File

Lower Snake River Dams 021600

